

REMARKS

The amendments set out above and the following remarks are believed responsive to the points raised by the Office Action dated April 15, 2008. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Several changes have been made in the specification to correct minor typographical errors. These changes are essentially editorial in nature and do not constitute the addition of new matter. Claims 1, 3, 4, and 7-9 have been amended to describe the invention more clearly. In particular, claims 3, 4, 8, and 9 have been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the respective base claim and intervening claim(s). No new matter has been added, the basis for the amended claim language may be found within the original specification, claims and drawings.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants are pleased to note the Office Action indicates claims 8 and 9 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the respective base claims and any intervening claims, and that claims 3 and 4 would also be allowable if similarly rewritten and if the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph was overcome.

The Office Action

The Office Action objected to the abstract of the disclosure because of "undue length" and "the use of legal phrascology". A new abstract has been provided. The new abstract does not contain legal phrascology and contains fewer than 150 words. It is respectfully submitted that with the submission of the new abstract the objection has been overcome.

The disclosure was objected to because of a number of informalities. It is respectfully submitted that with the amendments to the specification these informalities have been corrected.

Claims 1 and 7 were objected to because of insufficient antecedent basis. Claim 1 has been amended to refer to "a chuck axis" and claim 7 has been amended to refer to "a release

bolt". It is respectfully submitted that with these amendments the objections have been overcome.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. According to the Office Action, the recitation, "in particular for lathes" renders the claim indefinite. With this amendment, this phrase has been deleted from the claims.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 10, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,969,654 to Theodolin et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Theodolin"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The presently disclosed powered clamping chuck advantageously prevents the releasing bolt from rotating and the releasing key from being removed *unless a clamping jaw is inserted into the corresponding jaw guide of the chuck body*. Independent claim 1 defines locking means that allow a rotation of the releasing bolt (P) out of the rotational position corresponding to the lower jaw changing position of the key bar (5), into the rotational position corresponding to the upper working position of the key bar (5), if the tooth set (7) of the coupling attachment (5b) is in engagement with the counter-tooth set (8) of an associated clamping jaw (4), and that otherwise prevent rotation of the releasing bolt (P) into the rotational position corresponding to the upper working position.

In contrast, Theodolin does not disclose or suggest locking means that allow rotation of the releasing bolt "if the tooth set of the coupling attachment is in engagement with the counter-tooth set of an associated clamping jaw and that otherwise prevent rotation of the releasing bolt". The Office Action refers to "locking means (20,21)" as allegedly allowing rotation of the releasing bolt out of the rotational position corresponding to the lower jaw changing position of the key bar into the rotational position corresponding to the upper working position of the key bar when the tooth set of the coupling attachment is in engagement with the counter-tooth set of the clamping jaw and otherwise preventing rotation of the releasing bolt into the rotational position corresponding to the upper working position. However, the alleged "locking means (20,21)" comprising ball 20 and spring 21 do not "allow rotation of the releasing bolt if the tooth

set of the coupling attachment is in engagement with the counter-tooth set of an associated clamping jaw, and otherwise prevent rotation of the releasing bolt". Rather, ball 20 and spring 21 merely prevent radial movement of the plunger 13 and are not affected by whether the teeth of the clamping jaw are engaged.

Indeed, Theodolin does not even suggest locking means as defined in present claim 1 since the releasing bolt of Theodolin must be able to rotate independent of whether the teeth are engaged or not, in direct contrast with the present invention. The bolt of Theodolin includes teeth which engage teeth on an associated clamping jaw and the bolt must rotate if the teeth are not engaged, i.e. to engage the clamping jaw, and must rotate if the teeth are engaged, i.e., to disengage the clamping jaw. Accordingly, Theodolin does not disclose or suggest locking means which only allow rotation of the releasing bolt when a clamping jaw is engaged with the chuck. Furthermore, as can be seen clearly in Figures 1 and 5 of Theodolin, in contrast with the present invention in which the releasing key can only be withdrawn when a clamping jaw is inserted into the corresponding jaw guide of the chuck body, releasing key 19 of Theodolin can be removed or inserted in to the releasing bolt when no jaw is inserted into the jaw guide.

For at least these reasons, the rejection is improper and it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the amendment and remarks recited herein, the application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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